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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1568

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 000577

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/UMB JOE WANG
STATE ALSO PASS TO EUR/ERA RACHEL WOLFE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/11/2019
TAGS: [BO](#) [PREL](#) [EUN](#) [PHUM](#) [PO](#)
SUBJECT: PORTUGAL WILL FOLLOW EU CONSENSUS ON BELARUS
SANCTIONS

REF: STATE 112644

Classified By: Pol-Econ Officer Mario Fernandez, reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

(C) Poleconoff delivered reftel points on November 5 to Liliana Mascarenhas, Portugal's MFA Director for European Affairs, and Vitor Marcelino, MFA Deputy Director for Common Foreign and Security Policy and Assistant European Correspondent. Mascarenhas stated at the outset that Portugal would follow the EU consensus position on sanctions.

Although she agreed that Belarus had not implemented necessary human rights and democracy reforms, Mascarenhas observed that the issue was still under discussion in Brussels and it was too early for the EU to take a position. She concurred that to have the most significant effect on Belarus, it was necessary for EU and U.S. sanction policies to stay in sync. At the same time, she emphasized that nuances were important, noting that some countries in the EU held views that "do not necessarily coincide with U.S. perspectives."

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